

Through no fault of their own, ALJ salaries were included as a percentage of the Executive Schedule, which includes Members of Congress and Cabinet Secretaries. Since 1992 Members of Congress have prohibited themselves from receiving COLA's by appropriations bill riders that cover the whole Executive Schedules, including ALJ's. ALJ's in salary structure are more like other Federal employees hired at \$75,000 a year and their average salary is about \$89,000 a year, much less than Members of Congress or Cabinet Secretaries included in the Executive Schedule. The cost of the legislation is not significant, not even raising the \$5 million point of order threshold under the Budget Act. In fact we estimate that the cost of the legislation is under \$4 million.

As a matter of fairness, these Federal employees should receive pay adjustments at the same rate as other Government employees. The salaries of the younger administrative law judges are well below the pay level of Members of Congress. Many of the younger administrative law judges have fallen behind the rates of pay of their former Government colleagues. Senior Government attorneys paid under the General Schedule and the Senior Executive Service have received pay adjustments during the same period which has caused their rates of pay to exceed that of administrative law judges. The administrative law judiciary has traditionally recruited these senior attorneys as administrative law judges. The ability to recruit senior Government attorneys, experienced private practice attorneys, and to retain experienced administrative law judges is being impaired because of the disparity between the current pay of administrative law judges as compared with the pay of senior Government attorneys.

We believe that it is important to keep the Federal administrative judge corps competitive with other senior Government attorney positions. The Federal administrative judiciary must be able to recruit from the most able and experienced legal practitioners in both the private and public sectors, able to adjudicate complex and contested legal disputes. Adjudication of citizens' administrative claims by the Government is often the first contact the public has with the justice system. We want to ensure by passage of this bill, that the public has the quality and standard of service that justice deserves.

CONGRATULATING THE CANCER INSTITUTE OF NEW JERSEY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Cancer Institute of New Jersey on being designated as a clinical cancer center by the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Centers Program. This long-sought designation is a well-deserved honor and will mean much not only to the Cancer Institute of New Jersey but cancer patients throughout the State as well.

This designation, a tremendous advancement in health care for New Jerseyans, will allow clinical trials of new cancer therapies sponsored by the U.S. Food and Drug Admin-

istration to take place in New Jersey for the first time. This is a major milestone for the 6-year-old center, which is part of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey's Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. The medical school will receive an \$800,000 Federal grant to help support the center's operations. The designation places the Cancer Institute of New Jersey among the highest regarded cancer centers in the world.

The people of the State of New Jersey deserve the research and care provided by the Cancer Institute of New Jersey. They need to have convenient access to the newest advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and experimental treatment of cancer. Prior to the creation of the institute, New Jersey cancer patients seeking innovative care were forced to travel to either New York or Philadelphia. This was a particular burden for residents of the central portion of the State, which is an hour or more from either city. Such long travel distances are more than inconvenient—with frequent, repeated treatment sometimes needed, they can cause serious disruptions and hardships for the families involved. The opening of the institute has proven a major step forward for New Jersey cancer patients and its new designation as a cancer center brings New Jersey cancer treatment to the state-of-the-art.

The need for the institute is great. New Jersey has nearly 8 million citizens and cancer statistics ranking it as the third highest State in the Nation for estimated cancer deaths and the eighth highest for new cancer cases.

With 120 investigators, the Cancer Institute's clinical care and basic research programs include bone, bone marrow transplantation, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, gynecological, head and neck, leukemia/lymphoma, melanoma/sarcoma, and pediatrics.

The institute becomes one of more than 50 cancer centers designated across the country that engage in multidisciplinary research efforts to reduce cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality.

The Cancer Institute of New Jersey is a partnership of UMDNJ, Hackensack University Medical Center, New Brunswick Affiliated Hospitals, St. Peter's Medical Center, and Atlantic Health System.

I know personally the tragedy of cancer: My husband, Richard W. Roukema, M.D., and I lost our son, Todd, to leukemia in 1976 at the age of 17. At that time, bone marrow transplants and other techniques that offered hope were only in their experimental stages. Since then, many advances have been made that have spared thousands of other parents the heartbreak we faced. It is thanks to the brilliant researchers and physicians at institutions such as the Cancer Institute of New Jersey that hope can be maintained.

Today, we are within grasp of a cure for many forms of cancer but much research remains to be done. I thank God for those who are willing to labor toward this goal and pray that with their help a cure can be found and that no child will ever again have to suffer from this terrible disease.

SALUTE TO THE CINCINNATI BURNS INSTITUTE

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Shriners Hospitals for Children and the Cincinnati Burns Institute for their continuing commitment to the treatment and care of burn-injured children in the Cincinnati area, and to congratulate the Shriners on their 75th anniversary. We thank them for the vision and service that they have so generously given to the Greater Cincinnati community.

The Shriners Hospitals for Children is a network of 22 hospitals, 19 orthopedic units, and 3 burns institutes, offering specialized medical care to children up to the age of 18. The Cincinnati Burns Institute is one of the Shriners Hospitals specializing in acute and rehabilitative care of children suffering from burn injuries. As a regional referral hospital, the Cincinnati unit serves children who live within a 1,000-mile radius of Greater Cincinnati.

The mission of the Shriners is to minimize the devastation of burn injuries and enhance the patient's potential and quality of life. The Shriners provide family-centered and holistic pediatric burn care of the highest quality. And, by providing all medical care to patients at no cost to them or their parents or a third party, the Shriners Hospitals and Burns Institutes not only care emotionally for their patients, but financially as well. Through public education and prevention efforts, the Cincinnati Burns Institute, along with the Shriners, has been instrumental in raising public awareness in the management of pediatric burns.

The leadership of these truly dedicated organizations is an asset to our community and to our Nation. All of us in Cincinnati congratulate the Shriners Hospitals for Children on their 75th anniversary. We are grateful for all they have given to Greater Cincinnati.

AMERICA'S FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 1997

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my support for America's Federal credit unions on behalf of at least 35,000 people residing in the Second Congressional District who depend on them to receive financial services. As you may know, the original legislation that created Federal credit unions in the 1930's required that their members share a "common bond of occupation or association." Over the years, this statute has been interpreted in a fashion that allows employees from many different companies to join the same credit union. However, in the 1994 Federal District Court case of National Credit Union Administration versus First National Bank & Trust and its subsequent appeals, it was ruled that credit unions must have a "single common bond of occupation." In other words, all the members of the credit union must work for the same employer.

Although the Supreme Court has decided to hear this case, credit unions all across the Nation have been forced to cease accepting new